
SOUTHPORT

Girl, 13, accused of making up rape story

By RODNEY FOUSHEE

Staff Writer

A 13-year-old Southport girl has been charged with making up a story that she was kidnapped and raped by five men this month after a North Brunswick High School basketball game.

And her 17-year-old boyfriend — the person detectives say she did have sex with that night — is in charge of statutory rape.

A juvenile petition was filed this week charging the girl with filing a false police report, said Detective Zelma Babson, with the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

The girl, who attends South Brunswick Middle School, told detectives she was kidnapped by two men after the basketball game Jan. 5, then beaten and raped in a car. The girl told officers her attackers dropped her off at Winnabow, where she walked to a house on N.C. 133 and called her family.

Investigators, who at first believed the girl, took her to The Brunswick Hospital, where a rape test confirmed the teen-ager had recently had sex.

But the girl's story fell apart when her family questioned her. The girl finally broke down and told officers she was trying to protect her older boyfriend, whom she had been with that night, Detective Babson said.

"The men don't even exist," Detective Babson said. "She was out too late with her boyfriend. She had to come up with a story."

The girl and a Leland youth had apparently left the basketball game early in his car. But when she realized how late it was, she told the young man to drop her off near her aunt's home, Detective Babson said. That's when she came up with the abduction story.

Such cases are not uncommon, the detective said.

"It happens all the time," she said. "People make up stories to try to get out of all kinds of trouble."

Wednesday afternoon, a warrant was issued charging the girl's 17-year-old boyfriend with statutory rape. He could face a mandatory three-year prison sentence if convicted under a new state law that took effect in December. The new law increased the age of sexual consent from 13 to 16 and increased the punishment for some sex offenders.

The *Morning Star* doesn't usually print the names of people accused of sex crimes unless they are convicted.